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AN

APPEAL

TO THE

BRITISH

HOP-PLANTERS.

By S. F. WADDINGTON.

" Nor grandeur—hear, with a diſdainful ſmile
" The ſhort and ſimple annals of the poor!"

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HOP-PLANTERS!

IT was "a moſt malignant yet *futile* conſpiracy" againſt your beſt intereſts, which we would detect; but intervening obſervation too truly convinces me, that, inſtead of *futile*, it may even prove FATAL. It is I who am proſecuted, yet you are the real defendants, and I muſt unwillingly become your incompetent ſpecial pleader. The public papers, however, *ought to be* the court, but no public paper, *even with a fee*, can be found to arbitrate our injured cauſe.

YES,—it ſhall be an energetic Appeal to you; and, in every diſpaſſionate mind, it will create an

intereſt. But, it will not pleaſe every body—And why? It will have the garb of truth—the habit of our forefathers, and its colours will never fade!

When Venality and Hypocriſy ſhall have exhauſted their lures—When the faſhion of theſe times ſhall have paſſed away, Truth, in its plaineſt attire, will become a thrice welcome gueſt.

I thank you for the favors you have conferred upon me—I was a ſtranger among you—yet, I truſt that ſuch favors were mutual—I truſt that honor and probity were mine.—On your part, never was exemplified ſuch plain, ſuch undiſguiſed conduct, and ſuch gratitude! Gratitude! which all claim, but which is only to be found in the humbler path of life. This emanation of heavenly worth, ſeeks not cities—it is fond of ſecluſion, and it had riveted my attachment to you. But, alas! are not our fondeſt hopes likely to be blaſted, by the mandate of the Court of King's Bench?

It was at the twelfth hour, at the laſt moment devoted to legal notice, e'er the Hilary Term ended (and thus precluded early vindication) that this Lettre de ——— was iſſued. I haſtened to to town—I ſought for the law which I had violated.

lated. A chaos—a ſeries of frivolity and abſurdity (as I conceive)—of common place recital, proved to be the *ſummum bonum* of the affidavits alledged againſt me. But, that he ſhould be the principal evidence, who has oft-times partaken of my bounty, and thus called me Friend! was (indeed) unexpected.

If one evidence, then, had been a bankrupt at leaſt twice, had paid but two ſhillings and ſixpence in the pound, and wanted his certificate; another was a quondam clerk, diſcharged for pecuniary deficits.

The proceſſion was cloſed by a grand pageantry of Hop-merchants or Factors — their names ſhall

THOMAS KNIPE,
W. RICHMOND,
P. BROADLEY,
JOHN BOLLAND,
SAMUEL BROWN,
E. I. COLLETT,
THOMAS DAWSON,
H. ROXBY,
GEORGE THACKRAH,
JOSEPH WILSON,
JAMES SKIRROW,
THOMAS ELLIS,
HENRY COFFIN, &c.

We have heard of a certain Hop-merchant (we dare not name him), whoſe Income Rate ſhould have been £10,000. inſtead of £2000.—Another too, not long ago, was DEEPLY concerned with the Commiſſioners of the Brewery at Deptford.—He was an acquaintance; and he honored us with the following letter:

" Dear

ſhall not diſgrace theſe pages—men, who originally, held ſhoes and hoſen on their ſhoulders, and

" Dear Sir !

I know that it will not be unpleaſant to you to hear, that the Commiſſioners have finally ſettled the late unfortunate affair, ſo far as relates *to our part* of the contract, and in rather a handſome manner. They have been fully convinced, that our profits on the whole of the contracts did not exceed* 1s. 10$\frac{3}{4}$d. $\frac{953}{1075}$ per cwt. on the average, or £550. 8s. 5$\frac{1}{2}$d. $\frac{22}{43}$ upon £21522. 17s. 2d. the whole amount received. They are alſo ſatisfied, there is no truth in the very artful ſtory, ſtating a ſervant to have offered information, &c. &c.

Although the *cauſe* of the Commiſſioners' complaint, as far as related to *our part* of the contract, was ſo different in its degree to common report, and unpremeditated, yet I have been much concerned that I ſhould have aſſented

* What a pity but men of ſuch minute genius were employed in aſcertaining the National Debt, or providing the Ways and Means, rather than be thus groping in a hop-cellar.

" Full many a gem of pureſt ray ſerene
" The dark unfathom'd caves of Ocean bear ;
" Full many a flower is born to bluſh unſeen,
" And waſte its ſweetneſs in the deſert air.

to

and ought humbly to have cried, " hun-
" gry and ye fed me, naked and ye cloathed

to any thing in the leaſt wrong. Out of the 2150 bags delivered, the defalcation was not in more than from 20 to 30 bags."

Signed——

London,
7th Nov. 1796.

The Anſwer.

" Dear Sir!

Whatever might be the *cauſe* of your difference with the Commiſſioners, be aſſured, that I feel true ſatisfaction, when I find that ſuch difference is removed, and honorably too, to the feelings of my friend.

I did not attend to your late diſpute with either anxiety or ſupriſe, becauſe of my general ſentiments on the progreſs of induſtry in this iſle. To the refinements—proſuſion and falſe taſte, which a ſplendid and corrupt ſyſtem of Government muſt naturally produce, have I long imputed each pityleſs Bankrupt, and each purſe-proud 'Squire.—We paſs the former with contumely; and, in the latter, we but too often hail, an ingenious Rogue!

Foreign Commerce too has its conſcientious throes; but we calculate on our additional perils, and we feel a comparative ſatisfaction.

Your's ſincerely,

S. F. W.

" me,"

" me," and you might fairly and emphatically re-echo, " We were ſtrangers, AND YE TOOK US " IN !"

We ſaid that ſuch affidavits had the cloathing of frivolity.—A dinner here—a cock and bull ſtory —a double entendre a widow's jointure land, and the lovely Nine !

But, my attendance at the Courts was in vain ! Is it the laws that are violated, or is it the *lex in terrorem?*—Happy ſhall I be if I obtain the recital of my illegality, ſooner than the end of July !—Brave England—yet famed for equal laws !—We are charged in theſe curious affidavits as a Monopoliſt, which word, I ſuppoſe, means ſomething like holding the whole of a commodity (or it means nothing). Alas ! we never held one thirtieth part.—We are charged with being a Foreſtaller, which means, arreſting commodities of the *firſt neceſſity* on their road to market ; which, if Hops are of that deſcription, and the Factors of London form that market, we plead guilty. We are charged with regrating, which means the multiplication of ſaleſmen ; but to which we plead not guilty.—We are charged with feſtivity, with hoſpitality, with good neighbourhood—we are guilty —and on the verdict of God and our Country.

Now,

Now, let us ſee how the caſe ſtands. It was in a relaxation from London and from foreign commerce, which I had urged for upwards of twenty-ſix years, at home and abroad, and in which I had obtained an independent competency, that I firſt heard of the peculiar hardſhips of the Britiſh Hop planters. It was by the repreſentation of certain men reſident near Maidſtone, whoſe names will be reſpected by you, when the ſpirit of party ſhall have ſubſided, that I reſolved to adventure in this hazardous trade.

I SHOULD be an hypocrite were I to ſay, that I embarked with a ſole diſintereſted motive. No, it could not be expected that the fruits of my foreign aſſiduity ſhould be ſacrificed; but, it is a truth, which no man can controvert, that ſuch were the operations of the firſt year (viz. with the crop of 1798) when I came to reſide among you at Maidſtone, the beginning of Auguſt laſt, that I had not realized as much as the houſe which I entered into coſt me. But it becomes more important when I declare, that this emigration curtailed me in thoſe ſolid benefits which had accrued to my former commerce, and which had, to the houſe in London, produced a vibrating advantage from 8 to even 20,000l. *per annum*. It

was

was then, by the advice of grave men, that I embarked in this gigantic undertaking.—It was the worthy Hop-planters with me—it was all the world againſt me!—The duty of the preceding year (ſay 1797) was the enormous duty of 157,000l. I began in September, 1798, and by aſcertaining what was unconſumed of it.—Few will believe (what, however, is true), that I could not find 500 bags and pockets for ready money in all London. I purchaſed ſome at 7l. per cwt. and which, I have ſince heard, had not produced the poor planter 70s. I went into Kent, I purchaſed of the new growth, as by uſage *time immemorial.* I returned—but ſales were impoſſible. All was combination againſt me; all was hoſtility and deceit!—A Sir *Tim Gooſe* obtruded himſelf with advice which would have ruined me; I ſent him an old *Gander*, and he was grateful; and, as a *N. B.* I informed him, that prices at Weyhill fair were as high as 21l. but——

" O'er his head may thyme, ſage, and pot-marjoram wave,
" And fat be the gander which feeds on his grave."

It was not till the ſucceeding April, 1799, after my Hops had lain dormant eight months, that I could commence inſignificant ſales. In June,

June, therefore, I ſent throughout England confidential perſons, vide Circular Letter (note *) to explain the nature of the combination—they

* Copy of ſuch Circulars.

Sir,

June 12, 1799.

In conſequence of the perſevering and injurious deſigns of a combination of Dealers in the article of Hops, which have already but too ſucceſsfully obtained enormous profits for their own, and which, until even the laſt April, wholly prevented us with a large ſtock from a fair competition, and which would obviouſly have moderated the prices; we have at length determined to ſend a Gentleman to call on you, who will have the honor of more explicitly ſtating theſe circumſtances. He will explain to you, that ſuch unprecedented combination, which has deſcended even to the groſſeſt calumny, has proved, and will prove, alike injurious to the poor Planter, and to the Country Conſumer. You will alſo have ſome faithful information relative to the different growths of Hops; and probably you will be diſpoſed to make your further purchaſes in bags, rather than in pockets, altho as holders of nearly the whole of the remaining LEGITIMATE* pockets, we have authorized him to diſpoſe of either, ſomewhat under the market prices, and thus evince to you our ability and our diſpoſition to cultivate a connection with houſes of honor and punctuality.

(Signed) S. & H. WADDINGTON.

* Alluſive to the prevalent cuſtom of repacking bags into pockets.

re-

returned—they did not ſell as many Hops as paid their expences! And why? becauſe that they were Mr. Waddington's, who had reſcued the planters from the hands of a ſet of diſhonourable men. Soon arrived the month of Auguſt, when I repaired to Maidſtone.

PRAY, in the name of reaſon, I aſk, if it had not been for the awful SOLO of the 15th of that month —directed by him "who tempers the wind to the ſhorn lamb*!"—what ſpecies of march ſhould we have made?—Would it have been into Eaſtlane Priſon? or would Government have indemnified? No! Could Individuals? No!—We had, however, thanks to our genius, we had ſecured our retreat. But, to thoſe who were my confidential friends I appeal, whether I did not determine to riſk a loſs of 10,000l. in the cauſe of the injured Hop-planters of England? And it will be the pride of my life, that I have demonſtrated to an axiom, the peculiar hardſhip of their caſe.

BUT, the world ſhould alſo know, that ſuch hardſhip aroſe, from the unfortunate manner in which

* This Storm deſtroyed half the Hops upon the poles; thus made a market for our heavy ſtock of old ones.

the

the produce of Kent and Suſſex was diſpoſed of. Inſtead of Planters ſelling it themſelves in open market, they were conſtrained to conſign it to one of a company.—A company, I ſay, for it poſſeſſed every requiſite—ſuch as fraternity—ſecret ſervice—gormandizing—*all*, but the royal charter to exerciſe the art, the myſtery of a Commiſſioner to SELL, and at the ſame time to PURCHASE, *the fruit of your manly and anxious labour!*

Let us now look for the opinion of our anceſtors, relative to the Hop-market, and we ſhall take it from *original* papers.

" All well-wiſhers to the Hop Plantation are " deſired to meet the under-ſigned Hop-planters, " at Maidſtone, on Thurſday, 19th of May, 1765, " at the Star, at ten o'clock, who are deſirous to " aboliſh MIDDLE-MEN, and eſtabliſh public " markets for Hops."——

(Signed)

T. Pope,
Sir W. Twyſden,
Sir Roger Twyſden,
Charles Steward,
Rev. Mr. Ward,
Mr. Turner, &c.

AND

AND " At a meeting of Gentlemen and Hop-
" planters, held at the Star, in Maidſtone, on the
" 14th Feb. 1766. preſent,

Sir W. Twyſden,	Rev. Robert Style,
Sir Philip Boteler,	Rev. Joſeph Butler,
W. Champneys, Eſq.	John Amhurſt,
W. Daniel, Eſq.	Samuel Fullager,
Charles Style, Eſq.	Iden Henham,
Naſh Maſon, Eſq.	George Biſhop,

" a plan or draught of an agreement for the Hop-
" planters *not to ſend any Hops* to the preſent, *or*
" *any other Factors* in the Borough of Southwark,
" for the term of three years, and for eſtabliſhing
" Hop-markets and fairs at Maidſtone, and other
" places, was read; and it was declared to be the
" opinion of the Gentlemen, that a clauſe ſhould
" be added to enable the co-partners, from time
" to time, to borrow money on the credit of the
" joint ſtock, for the better enabling them to carry
" on the ſaid trade at an intereſt not exceeding
" 4 per cent.

" IT was alſo agreed to apprize the Planters of
" Eaſt Kent, and of Suſſex, of ſuch deſigns; and
" Meſſrs. Dawſon, Amhurſt, Maſon, and Daniel,
" were

23	30279	3244	3	25953		68	114246	12240	13	97925		
24	61271	6564	15	52518		69	16201	1735	17	13887		
25	6526	699	4	5594		1770	101131	10835	10	86684		53782
26	85013	9108	10	72868		71	33143	3551		28408		
27	69409	7436	14	59494		72	102652	10998	9	87988		
28	41494	4445	15	35566	38927	73	45848	4912	5	39298		
29	48441	5190	2	41521		74	138887	14880	15	119046		
1730	44419	4759	4	38074		75	41597	4456	17	35655		
31	22600	2421	9	19372		76	125691	13466	18	107735		
32	35135	3764	10	30116		77	43581	4668	7	37347		83224
33	70215	7523		60184		78	159891	17131	4	137050		
34	37416	4008	17	32071		79	55800	5693	18	45551		
35	42751	4580	10	36644	45927	1780	122724	12522	17	100183		
36	46482	4980	4	39842		81	120218	11709	14	93678		
37	56495	6053		48424		82	14895	1387	17	11103		
38	86575	9275	18	74207		83	75716	7054	7	56435		
39	70742	7579	10	60636		84	94359	8791	7	70331		59792
1740	37885	4059	2	32473		85	112684	10498	10	83988		
41	65222	6988	2	55905		86	95973	8941	15	71534		
42	45550	4880	7	39043	44304	87	42227	3934	4	31474		
43	61072	6543	9	52348		88	143838	13335	17	106687		
44	46708	5004	9	40036		89	104063	9695	5	77562		
45	34635	3710	18	29687		1790	106845	9954	10	79636		
46	91826	9838	10	78708		91	90059	8390	12	67125		88579
47	62993	6749	5	53994		92	162113	15103	15	120830		
48	87155	9338		74704		93	22619	2107	10	16860		
49	36305	3889	17	31119	62025	94	203063	18918	17	151351		
1750	72138	7729	2	61833		95	82342					
51	73954	7923	13	63389		96	75223					
52	82163	8803	14	70426		97	157458					
53	91214	9772	19	78184		98	56032					
54	112012	12001	5	96010		99	abt. 70000					
55	82157	8802	13	70420								

A Table of the Duties,

FROM THEIR COMMENCEMENT TO THE GROWTH OF 1799,

BEING A

PERIOD OF 89 YEARS.

The Duty to the Year 1778 inclusive, was at 1d. per lb. — — or £9 6 8
1779 and 1780, at 1d. & 5 per cent. — — or 9 16 0
1781 - - - at 1d. & 10 per cent. — — or 10 5 4
And since that Period at 1d. & 15 per cent. — — or 10 14 8
} per Ton.

Year.	*Duty.*	*Tons.*	*Cwt.*	*Bags of 2.2.0 Nt.*	*Average of 7 Years.*	*Year.*	*Duty.*	*Tons.*	*Cwt.*	*Bags of 2.2.0 Nt.*	*Average of 7 Years.*
1711	£ 43437	4654		37232		1756	£ 48106	5154	5	41234	63470
12	30278	3244		25952		57	69735	7471	12	59773	
13	23018	2466	4	19730		58	72994	7820	15	62566	
14	14437	1549		12392	28309	59	42115	4512	7	36099	
15	44975	4818	15	38550		1760	117992	12642		101136	
16	20354	2180	15	17446		61	79776	8547	9	68380	
17	54669	5857	8	46859		62	79295	8495	18	67967	
18	15005	1607	14	12862		63	88315	9462	7	75699	70145
19	90317	9676	15	77416		64	17178	1840	10	14724	
1720	38169	4089	10	32716		65	73788	7905	17	63247	
21	61362	6574	10	52596	42347	66	116503	12482	10	99860	
22	49433	5296	9	42372		67	25998	2785	10	22284	
23	30279	3244	3	25953		68	114246	12240	13	97925	
24	61271	6564	15	52518		69	16201	1735	17	13887	
25	6526	699	4	5594		1770	101131	10835	10	86684	53782

" were appointed to go and communicate with " them."

At the meeting of the Suſſex Planters, held at the George Inn, Robertſbridge, 6th April, 1766, Mr. Jones, one of the Planters, exclaimed, " *this is the Bleſſing that I begged God Almighty to pour down upon me twenty years ago,*"

At the joint meeting of the Eaſt and Weſt Kent Hop-planters, at the George, at Sittingbourne, on the 23d April, 1766, preſent,

Sir William Twyſden,	Sir Edward Hales,
Sir John Filmer,	Thomas Beſt, Eſq.
Doctor Curteis,	John Bing, Eſq.
Naſh Maſon, Eſq.	Mr. W. Rigden,
W. Daniel, Eſq.	W. Allen,
Charles Stewart, Eſq.	Beſt Fenner,
Mr. Iden Henham,	Julius Shepherd,
Mr. Thomas Turner,	Joſeph Royle,
Mr. Thomas Pope,	Alderman Thomas,
Mr. John Amhurſt,	Alderman Pembroke,
Rev. Mr. Style, &c.	John Kingsford,

" and many others, to the number of ſeventy-five, " and upwards, it is unanimouſly agreed, that " Hop-markets ſhall be eſtabliſhed at Canterbury

" on Saturday,—at Maidſtone, on Thurſday,—
" at Feverſham, on Wedneſday,—and at Seven
" Oaks, on Saturday, in every week.

" AND it is further propoſed and agreed to be
" the opinion of this meeting, that in order to
" prevent the *impoſition of the Hop-factors*, and
" for eſtabliſhing and promoting the markets
" before mentioned, none of the perſons here
" preſent *ſhall ſend any Hops to London to be ſold*
" *by Hop-factors there*; but that every one of us
" ſhall ſend his Hops to one of the before-men-
" tioned markets, in the county of Kent, to be
" ſold there, or ſell the ſame at OUR RESPECTIVE
" HOUSES. And it is recommended to all the
" planters in the counties of Kent and Suſſex, to
" ſend their Hops to ſome or one of the before-
" mentioned markets, &c.

BUT it does not appear that this aſſemblage of reſpectable perſons could obtain its moſt ardent wiſh. For we find, that ſoon afterwards, the following ſketch of an act of parliament was agreed on for the purpoſe of *admitting, licenſing and regulating* Hop-factors:

" WHEREAS the plantation of Hops within this
" kingdom is very large, and the produce thereof
" raiſes

" raiſes or pays a large exciſe or duty to the Go
" vernment, but the Planters thereof are in a
" great meaſure diſcouraged from continuing or
" increaſing ſuch plantations (which are attended
" with a very heavy expence), by means of a ſet
" of perſons living in and reſiding near the Bo-
" rough of Southwark, in the county of Surrey,
" moſt of them of *very mean extraction*, who
" (without any power or authority for ſo doing)
" have UNITED TOGETHER, and have taken upon
" them the names of Hop-factors, tho by no
" means ſkilled in the employment, not having
" ſerved any apprenticeſhip to any ſuch buſineſs,
" and being at preſent under no ſuch regulations
" as are neceſſary to prevent the miſchiefs ariſing
" from ſuch perſons not ſuffering a Planter to ſell
" his own Hops; by which means the Planters
" are obliged to put them into the hands of ſome
" of theſe perſons to ſell, and to accept of ſuch
" price as they are pleaſed to give them. And
" the ſaid factors having ſuch Hops delivered to
" them, have them abſolutely in their own power;
" and frequently *keep them themſelves*, and give
" an account to the Planters of the ſale of them
" at ſuch *low or under value* as they think proper,
" in ſome fictitious name; or ſell them under
" their real value to perſons *with whom they are*
" *in partnerſhip*, and receive conſiderable advan-

" tage to themſelves, by which means, in a very
" few years, *they enrich themſelves and impoveriſh*
" *the Planter*, to the great hindrance of the Hop-
" planters of this kingdom, and the leſſening of
" the duty or exciſe thereof;—for remedy where-
" of, and the prevention of the ill practices of
" ſuch factors for the future, and the great incon-
" venience that may thereby happen, may it there-
" fore pleaſe your Majeſty, &c."

SUCH was the preamble, and ſuch eminent perſonages thought it their duty to attend.—But is the genius of the county perverted?——Scarcely one deſcendant of thoſe antient families has hailed me welcome—ſcarely one Gentleman Planter, not one of rank, has yet tendered me his Hops!——But to return; theſe worthy men—theſe London Commiſſioners, made common cauſe with the Hop Merchant—tho their meetings were nocturnal—they roſe with the lark—their faculties were correct—and their *Northern ſagacity* appears never to have forſaken them. Combined together, they formed a firm phalanx, tho alone they were but *as a broken reed!*——With the worthy Brewers too, they held SWEET converſe—their ways were ways of Pleaſantneſs—and all their paths were Gold!

It cannot, then, be wonderful, that each planter ſought with avidity, a perſon who was to reſcue him from ruin. Each one ſought me, and none were diſappointed. It was honor, it was uprightneſs on my ſide—it was rectitude and honeſty on his—it was confidence in both. We purchaſed largely—we purchaſed as by uſage, *time immemorial*, and we flattered ourſelves, that no law, human or divine, was violated. And ſo far were we from countenancing what are called fore-handed bargains, that, ſo early as 1ſt January, 1799, viz. four months after we entered into the trade, aware of its injurious tendency, we wrote, and entreated the Planters to refrain from ſuch ſales. I know that it will be here inſiſted, that we, nevertheleſs, have occaſionally made ſuch purchaſes: but if we had, they muſt have been obtruded on us by Planters who have invariably made ſuch premature ſales. I have ſaid that we purchaſed largely of the laſt year's growth particularly, and how did we purchaſe? We did not go from houſe to houſe with lies and pretended letters from the Borough market. We cultivated that ſocial intercourſe and communication which have ever been advantageous to trade. We courted a public market—we publicly adviſed, therefore, "that we ſhould only purchaſe on open market-day at Maidſtone," and that we ſhould give in the

early part of the ſeaſon, a preference to the leſſer Planters. I knew their peculiar difficulties, and I relieved them beyond expectation. How often did I give them 10s. nay 20s. per cwt. above the market price!

I ſhould have obſerved long ago, that the Borough ſyſtem unavoidably obliged Planters to become a ſpecies of penſioners. The Londoner had his hand in each Planter's pocket—and 'ere the year revolved, the Planter was again obliged to ſeek ſanctuary in the generoſity and philanthropy of a Commiſſioner, at 3s. per bag, for the felicity of obtaining for his Hops 60s. to 90s. per cwt.!—But was this the price to the conſumer?—was there no connection with Merchants?—were no annual accounts kept and ſettled?—It was the grand *ſine qua non*, to attract the bulk of the growth into the Borough, at an early hour of the ſeaſon—and the accumulated diſtreſſes of each planter, facilitated ſuch an operation. When this grand object was obtained, then the plot thickened; the unguarded brewer, but more particularly the country ſhop-keeper and conſumer, were alike the purchaſer of the enhanced commodity.

ARE you ignorant, Hop-planters, that this was not all? Know you not, that the numerous Planters of Worceſter and Herefordſhire, that thoſe of Farnham and Notts, and the reſt of England, depend for prices upon the ingenious operations of the London Committee? The produce of the firſt is ſold at Worceſter fair, ſoon as Hops are ready, (but by *the Planter himſelf*;) thoſe of Farnham are drawn along with many a heavy ſigh!—to Weyhill; the North Clays to Retford fair; the Eſſex to Stirbitch; each of which marts, happily for your enemies, is held, almoſt immediately after the bagging is cloſed, and the Borough market, which has ever governed theſe fairs, was kept in the moſt depreſſed ſtate. All, however, were free agents, ſave the Kent and Suſſex Planter—*One half of the Britiſh Planters were deprived of a Provincial market!* Thus, the laborious Planter became bereft of his Hops in a moment—then up went the price.—Never was produce diſpoſed of ſo diſadvantageouſly! never were Engliſhmen ſo juggled!—And there was none to help them!

THAT an article, more valuable in its produce on a given ſpace of ground, than any other in Britain or Ireland, ſave Woad (uſed for dying, and

but of confined local product.) That an article, ſo eſſential to the ordinary beverage, ſhould be cultivated at the enormous loſs of 4 to 500,000l. *per annum*—was it not as diſcouraging as it was true? Why ſhould I wound your feelings, by proving this loſs by tables of calculation? Your unequivocal teſtimony of my conduct, gave proof of this to the world—but, if any ſhould have doubts, I refer them to a very intelligent Planter's Remarks, ſpeedily to be publiſhed.

WAS not this an operation then, worthy of a man who had attained an age when the general weal of his fellow ſubjects ought to be reſpected? —I did reſpect it, and I ſucceeded.—At leaſt, 20,000 families in the different Hop counties, bear teſtimony.—Each cordially aſſures me, that I have equitably diſpenſed the enormous lucre of the London Committee. I have realized that deſideratum againſt regrating; by diminiſhing the intermediate ſaleſmen, yet, *I have not enhanced the value of the commodity to the conſumer.*

WHAT then was my conduct? Did I foreſtal the market? Had I monopolized?—No. When the combination againſt us was broken, I ſold again as faſt as poſſible, and conſumers had always a pre-

a preference; and, as a retort courteous for Mr. Erſkine's *affected* zeal for the navy, I quote the following letter to the Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's brewery at Deptford.

" To the Honorable the Commiſſioners for
" conducting His Majeſty's Brewery at
" Deptford."

169, High-ſtreet, June, 1799.

" AS we have not yet had the pleaſure of a " call from your agent, we beg to acquaint you " that we have been, and continue to be, princi- " pal dealers in the article of Hops. We deem " it our duty, and it is our inclination to add, that " the Agent for His Majeſty's Brewery at Dept- " ford, ſhall be ſupplied, whenever you think " proper, with any quantity of bags it may re- " quire, till the next crop, at 3s. per cwt. under the " average market price of the day.

(Signed) S. and H. WADDINGTON."

I TRUST I can conſcientiouſly ſay, that I never loſt ſight of the true intereſts of the Planters; I di-

I diverted the profits of Meſſrs. the Factors and Merchants, but the conſumer, I muſt inſiſt, paid no more for his commodity *.

We muſt now ſpeak of another tranſaction wnich aroſe during the laſt year. It was in March, that I firſt obſerved the defect of the law of the 9th *Ann, cap.* 12. which enacts a penalty, merely of 20l. in the caſe of uſing ſubſtitutes for Hops. Althought but a young Hop-merchant, I was not idle. I wrote to each of the Repreſentatives of the County of Kent, the following note:

Sir,

" AS a principal dealer in the article of Hops, " I apprehend that I am juſtified, and acting " upon the apparent ſentiment of the worthy " Hop-planters of the kingdom; but particularly " of thoſe of the loyal county of Kent, when I " preſume to requeſt you and your Colleague " will allow me to have the honor of waiting " upon you, at any hour you will appoint, for

* Hops produced a much higher price to the *London Jobbers*, a few years before I entered into the Trade.

" the

" the purpoſe of ſuggeſting to you the imperious
" neceſſity of an immediate Act of the Legiſla-
" ture, which will operate as a protection to the
" valuable property of the Hop-planter, now ſo
" highly endangered by an introduction into malt
" liquor, of ſubſtitutes for Hops, hitherto unex-
" ampled and unknown. In which conference
" I ſhall beg leave to ſubmit to you the propriety
" of previouſly referring the ſubject to a General
" Meeting of the Planters.

" *London, March* 7, 1799."

Sir Edward Knatchbull pleaded ſickneſs, but Sir William Geary promptly deſired a converſation. Let me aſk that Gentleman—let me aſk ſome of the leading Planters, whether they did not declare, that it would be conducive to the general weal of the County of Kent, *to grub up* the hop-grounds? Sir William knows that I was of a different opinion—" that the growth only
" required a better legiſlative protection, and a
" more judicious mode of ſale,"—and I gave him my thoughts in writing.—But, great men in Parliament were to be conſulted—ſix weeks elapſed, and nothing was done. Another effort wa smade

I cauſed

I cauſed a meeting of the Planters at Maidſtone—It was I who ſent that unſigned notice to the paper, and Sir William Geary was adviſed of it—he attended; and thought that proof at the bar of the Houſe, was eſſential to the introduction of an amended act, but I differed with him on that point, and ſtill conceive, that an increaſe of penalty might be urged, not only on the diſproportion of the value of money, but on the prodigious encreaſe in malt-liquors; which would vindicate a penalty, even of 500l.

It is not to be diſguiſed, that if Hop-planters had as many friends in the Houſe of Commons as the worthy brewers,—ſuch relief would long ago have been theirs.

It is not to be diſguiſed, that when Mr. Pitt laid his additional duties on wines and ſpirits, he would have made each Planter's fortune, if Repreſentatives had been true to their Conſtituents, and *if a Provincial market had been eſtabliſhed for the Planters of Kent and Suſſex.*

What then ſhall we infer? That we have not only uniformly attended to the beſt intereſts of the Planters, *(who year by year had been, and ſtill*

ſtill are, on the aggregate calculation, loſers of from 4 to 500,000l. by their hop-grounds) but that we have, at the imminent riſk of loſing our toilſome reward in foreign commerce, by one great mercantile operation, directed into the pocket of each laborious Planter, that gain which had heretofore been ſhared by MIDDLE-MEN, ſuch as Factors and London Hop-Jobbers.

IT is this, that gives me confidence. It has been the happieſt tranſaction of my life. When the ſplendour of pride, and the artful courteſy of dignified life, ſhall be at an end, I ſhall find conſolation in this reflection; that at an hour of great national calamity and individual diſtreſs, it pleaſed God, to enable me to gain "A GREAT VICTORY", over a combination of men, who fought but their own aggrandizement, at the price of the dear intereſts of the community!—We obtained "a great victory"—and we have no liſt of killed and wounded!—No orphan, deſtitute and forſaken!—No mother, widow, or ſiſter, to deplore an irreparable loſs!—No enſanguined field, reeking with the blood of thouſands—PREMATURELY SLAIN!

THERE

THERE was a time,—Alas, 'tis o'er!—when we ſhould not have found a proſecution for ſuch conduct.—I have ſeen countries—may I never be again obliged to viſit them!—where, inſtead of a *proſecution*—I ſhould have met a *premium*, or have been entitled to ſome token of diſtinction. Was it nothing, Mr. Pitt, to enhance the value of the labor of ſome of our faireſt counties?—Keep the people contented—and this too, in BRITAIN'S TRYING HOUR? Was it characteriſtic—Was it manly, to drag into Court, one, who, with his connections, had for many years, urged in Foreign countries the diſſemination of Britiſh Manufactories (the induſtry of millions) to an extent, exceeded by no Britiſh individual?

Is this the commercial country of which we boaſt?—it may be the country,—but its people are no more!—The ingenuous ſpirit—the conſciencious Briton—the friend of the diſtreſſed and of the poor, has no hand in this treatment of me. I would write this with tears—but, they would be the tears, which one ſheds, for a degenerated people!—There are other countries, but none where rulers emblazon the Courts of Juſtice—none which would expoſe to the malevolence of every hireling, and periodical ſcribbler (vide

(vide Margin) a man, who had the ARTS OF PEACE to boaſt of—One who had never defrauded his neighbour of a ſhilling, and, who had in each tranſaction

Maidſtone Journal, 11th Feb. 1800.
Publiſhed by I. Blake.

Court of King's-Bench, Saturday, 8th Feb.

" Mr. Erſkine moved for a criminal information againſt " Samuel Waddington for the offence of foreſtalling by " purchaſing the greater part of the Hop crops in the " county of Kent, in order to raiſe the market. The " motion was grounded upon the affidavits of Mr. Knipe, " and ſeveral Gentlemen; from which it appeared, that " Mr. Waddington had commenced his injurious ſpecula- " tions in 1798, and had continued them down to the " preſent period: that he had expreſſed his determination " to expend his own property to the amount of £80,000. " and to borrow more, if neceſſary, in order to get poſ- ' ſeſſion of as large a quantity of Hops as poſſible, as he " was confident there would be a ſcarcity in that article. " Lord Kenyon expreſſed not the leaſt doubt but that this " was an offence at common law. Hops were as much " a neceſſary article of life as any other. He lamented " the dreadful effects produced upon the Country at large " by foreſtalling, and truſted now that one great example " was brought forward, ſomething would be done for the " benefit of the Public. Great credit was due to the " Gentlemen who had been inſtrumental in bringing a " perſon, ſuppoſed to have committed ſuch a *foul offence*,

" to

tranſaction of his life, ſupported an honor, which was almoſt a ſtranger to the mercantile world.

I DO not pretend to ſay, who are the prime movers of this odious proſecution. —I know only,

" to juſtice, as it was likely the ſpeculation had been car-
" ried on in various counties. The other judges rejoiced,
" for the ſake of the Public, that the charge was brought
" forward, and the rule to ſhew cauſe was granted."

In conſequence of this, I ſent the following note to the Maidſtone Committee for the Relief of the Poor:

Sir,

After the " foul offence" which has been indirectly imputed to me by your Chairman, in his periodical paper, I do not conceive myſelf eligible to be any longer one of his Committee for the Relief of the Poor, I beg you will therefore be pleaſed to eraſe my name.

(Signed) S. F. W.

The Poor!!—alas!—If the London Petition (ſigned by 2400 reſpectable Merchants, &c.), which I had the honor of preſenting at the Throne four years ago, praying the King " to grant his diſtreſſed ſubjects the ineſtimable Bleſſings of Peace," had been attended to, the Poor would now have been regaling themſelves with Roaſt Beef and Plumb-pudding.

that

that it has long been on the tapis, and that great men were privy to it.

THERE were ſeaſons, when ſuch repreſentatives of the Crown as Lords Lieutenant—when ſuch repreſentatives of the people as Knights of the Shire, could have illuſtrated the beſt intereſts of their diſtricts; and would not have permitted this diſgrace, to have fallen on uſeful inhabitants.

Suppoſe, that inſtead of this invidious action, Government had evinced its guardian care by protecting the general beverage?—Is it not notorious, that Brewers monopolize almoſt every public-houſe in the kingdom? Are they not invariably on the civil bench; and are not licences their excluſive province?—Thus may we account for the hog-waſh which we generally partake of. And my Lord Kenyon's alluſion to corn monopoliſts was curious. But it is a truth, that the diſpoſition of the Britiſh farmer leads not to monopoly. His diſtreſſes no doubt are great, yet, for his poorer neighbours, his feelings are kind and ſympathetic!

It is to theſe unfortunate wars, which increaſe the aggregate conſumption one-third.—It is to

the parſimony of the ſeaſons, we muſt impute our ſcarcity in corn and in hops.—And what was the increaſed uſe of malt liquor of late years?—At leaſt one-third. So, if we annually required £100,000. duty five years ago, we now demand £130,000. which is more even than the collective produce of 1798 and 1799!—How cruel, then, to impute to an individual, high prices, which ariſe from the acts of Providence! The culture of Hops was the darling delight of ſome diſtricts, and its labor interfered not with other avocations. Altho the Planter had many a Blank, yet it was his Lottery Ticket, and its pleaſing deluſion beguiled each toilſome hour!

Power may reſtrict commercial ſpeculation.—It may fly in the face of our anceſtors' wiſdom.—It may ſap the vitals of our proſperity, but truth ſtill riſes ſupreme, and a time will come, when honourable induſtry, ſhall claim me as its own, though by the world, I am pronounced a culprit ere pretended facts are eſtabliſhed. But if even a jury of my country ſhould acquit me, yet no reparation can ever be made for the blow my public character has received, altho, thanks to my former good fortune! I may defy the diabolical attacks

(vide

(vide margin) which have been made on my private one.—In the number of thoſe attacks, we may be excuſed in ranking the paragraph in our Provincial newſpaper. It would be peruſed by thoſe men, whoſe intereſts I have uſurped. But it will be my duty to give it a legal

* Copy of a letter ſent by the Poſt to the different Churchwardens in Kent and Suſſex.

" Sir!

" A Bill is now forming to be immediately laid before " Parliament, in order to ſuppreſs the injurious extent of " Monopoly, chiefly ſupported through the medium of an " immenſe circulation of Country Bank Paper. As other " Hop-jobbers, beſides Mr. Waddington, will certainly " be brought forward, it will be only juſt to give a timely " hint to ſome of your neighbours, not to hold any con- " ſiderable amount of ſuch nominal property. Caution " will be proper in your communications.

Your's,

ANTI QUASSHIA."

Hitherto our enemies are defeated.—It has had no effect, unleſs indeed one would interpret a *run upon a bank* to be a lady's poſt-haſte journey from the weald of Suſſex, but who, in her alarm, forgot her pocket-book.—A French dancing-maſter from Chatham (a dancing-maſter unfriendly

gal diſcuſſion. Almoſt every Provincial paper in the kingdom is under the orders or the influence of men, who are benefited by the exiſting adminiſtration.—The London periodical publications too, are wholly ſubſervient to party views.—Thus, the preſs is reſtricted, and to the inſatiate ambition and wild inveteracy of party, is Britain indebted, for a world of woe! MAY YOUR FUTURE PROSPERITY PROVE AN EXCEPTION TO THIS SOLEMN TRUTH!

friendly to the Hop-trade!) or, unleſs one could claſs the following letter:

"Southwark Bank, 24th Feb. 1800.

"Meſſrs. Waddington and Co.
"Maidſtone.

"Gentlemen,

"We ſend One Pound local note of your's, and requeſt "the favor of you to remit one payable in town in lieu "thereof.

"We are, Gentlemen,
"Your moſt obedient Servants,

(Signed) "WILKINSON, BLOXAM & Co.

(Superſcription) "London, 24th Feb. 1800,
"Free M. BLOXAM, M.P."

What an expanſive genius!—thus at once to embrace public and private objects!—Enlightened Repreſentative!—Happy Conſtituents!

But

But I have done. Indifferent I am about the iſſue, becauſe I am unconſcious of any wrong. —I ardently hoped that my conduct was worthy of a good ſubject, and that all would have approved.—Let better and more uſeful men replace me.—Let my Lord K—— demand me to his judgment ſeat; but his ſentence will be a ſentence of Baniſhment, and my journey to the metropolis will be but as one ſtage out of that country, *which had ſurvived its beſt Intereſts—its Virtues and its Honors!*—Of the people we ſhall exclaim, O! homines ſervire paratos; and of the dignified orders——

" Degen'rate ſons! of Britain's fall'n race
" Honor's diſhonor, and Fame's laſt diſgrace!

Maidſtone, 10th March, 1800.

The abſtracts of two Acts of Parliament, and a ſtate of the Hop duty ſince the year 1711 are ſubjoined.

" And if any perſon ſhall forge, counterfeit, " alter, or wilfully obliterate any mark on any " bag or pocket, he ſhall forfeit £10. on convic- " tion before one juſtice. 14 Geo. cap. 68."

Abſtract

Abſtract of the act 12 Geo. 3. cap. 71. which repeals the different ſtatutes againſt foreſtalling, regrating, engroſſing, &c. it recites as follows:

" That it has been found by experience, that " the reſtraints laid by ſeveral ſtatutes upon the " dealing in corn, meal, flour, cattle, and other " ſorts of victuals, by preventing a free trade " in the ſaid commodities, have a tendency to " diſcourage the growth and to enhance the price " of the ſame; which ſtatutes, if put in execution, " would bring a great diſtreſs upon the inhabitants " of many parts of this kingdom, and in parti- " cular upon thoſe of the cities of London and " Weſtminſter; be it enacted by, &c. and " thereupon it is enacted, that the 3 and 4 " *Edw.* 6. *c.* 21; the 5 and 6 *Edw.* 6. *c.* 14.; " the 2 and 3 *Philip* and *Mary*, *c.* 3.; the 5 " *Eliz. c.* 5. and *c.* 12.; the 15 *Car.* 2. *c.* 8. " &c. &c. and alſo all acts for the better en- " forcement of the ſame, being detrimental to " the ſupply of the labouring and manufacturing " poor of this kingdom, ſhall be, and the ſame are hereby declared to be repealed."

But by a ſtrange omiſſion, as theſe were offences at common law, the repeal of the different ſtatutes

ſtatutes alone was inſufficient. The parties are left expoſed to the former penalties, and only exempt from thoſe which were laid by the acts.

FINIS.

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